



June 23, 2010

5.5-Magnitude Canada Earthquake Felt Here; No Reports of Injuries or Damage Here

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security staffed its Situation Assessment Center today on a preliminary report by the United States Geological Survey of an 5.5-magnitude earthquake at 1:41 p.m. today in the Ontario-Quebec Border Region of Canada and anecdotal reports of tremors felt in Franklin County. No injuries or damage have been reported to FCEM&HS by public safety officials as of 4:30 p.m.

The agency received anecdotal reports of “buildings swaying” early this afternoon in downtown Columbus but has received no confirmation that any buildings in the area were evacuated. The Ohio EMA has received no damage reports as of 4:30 p.m.

According to the USGS National Earthquake Information Center, “a magnitude 5.5 ... earthquake usually can be felt as far as 500 km (300 mi) from where it occurred, and sometimes causes damage as far away as 40 km (25 mi).” Columbus is 900 km (560 mi) from the epicenter. According to the USGS, “People in the large Western Quebec seismic zone have felt small earthquakes and suffered damages from larger ones for three centuries.” The most recent of the largest damaging earthquake in the region was in 1935.

There have been 120 non-Ohio-epicenter earthquakes felt in Ohio since 1776; most have caused no damage in the state.

PRECAUTIONARY ACTIONS:

- Listen for information about what to do and where to go during an actual emergency.
- Also, take this opportunity to create a family emergency communications plan, including how separated family members can reach each other in an emergency, and to prepare an emergency supplies kit, including drinking water, battery-powered radio, canned or dry food, and flashlight.
- Go to Ready.Gov for more emergency preparedness tips.

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